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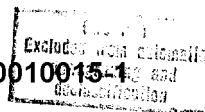
5 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NIPP

1. Attached is a draft memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, recommending discontinuance of the NIPP. Despite considerable distaste for this document in the Office of National Estimates, some of us have had a few sober thoughts, and suggest that before sending the memorandum you consider the following:
2. Because long lead-times are unavoidable in the making of military program decisions, a document like the NIPP, and one prepared in a much less conscientious and disinterested way, would certainly be produced in Defense to replace the lapsed NIPP. This would mean that program decisions would proceed from an even less reliable intelligence base than at present.
3. To permit a major intelligence task of a community-wide nature to be removed from the USIB coordination format would diminish the DCI's responsibility for and authority over the intelligence community.
4. To decouple the NIPP procedurally from the NIE would sow contention and confusion over the substantive issues involved. This in turn would tend to degrade the authority of the NIE, and thus of the DCI and USIB.
5. The White House staff is among the users of the NIPP. It seems likely that the Bureau of the Budget will become increasingly involved in the review of Pentagon program decisions and hence a more active user. Such users will probably insist on a NIPP prepared in the present manner, that is, one which offers greater assurance of objectivity and which can be used as a basis for an independent critique of the Pentagon's program proposals. Certainly the Systems Analysis people have always insisted that these projections have the USIB's stamp of approval.

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6. Did Fubini really represent the "Defense Department"? Or is this a gun fired in bureaucratic warfare between the research people and systems analysis. What will DIA think?

7. Finally, I take the opportunity to send you a rather lengthy piece on the NIPP, written some time ago by the Chief NIPP-maker. It explains quite a lot, especially from page 8 on.

ABBOT SMITH
Director
National Estimates

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Projections for Planning

1. For some five or six years the intelligence community has annually been producing the document recently entitled National Intelligence Projections for Planning (NIPP). Secretary MacNamara requested these projections on behalf of his Systems Analysis people. They are produced in the same manner as National Intelligence Estimates; i.e. with full coordination within the intelligence community under the supervision of the Board of National Estimates and final concurrence by the United States Intelligence Board.

2. The NIPP now receives a much wider distribution than was originally intended. The projections are quoted and referred to as "estimates," although their text emphasizes that forecasts of the number and characteristics of Soviet weapons for ten years in future cannot be better than educated guesses. It seems to me that the NIPP has outgrown its intended function, and indeed that it may have become a source of more difficulty than enlightenment.

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3. I propose, therefore, that after this year's issuance the NIPP be discontinued. If you or your people have questions as to the desirability of doing so, let us find some opportunity to discuss it further.

Richard Helms
Director